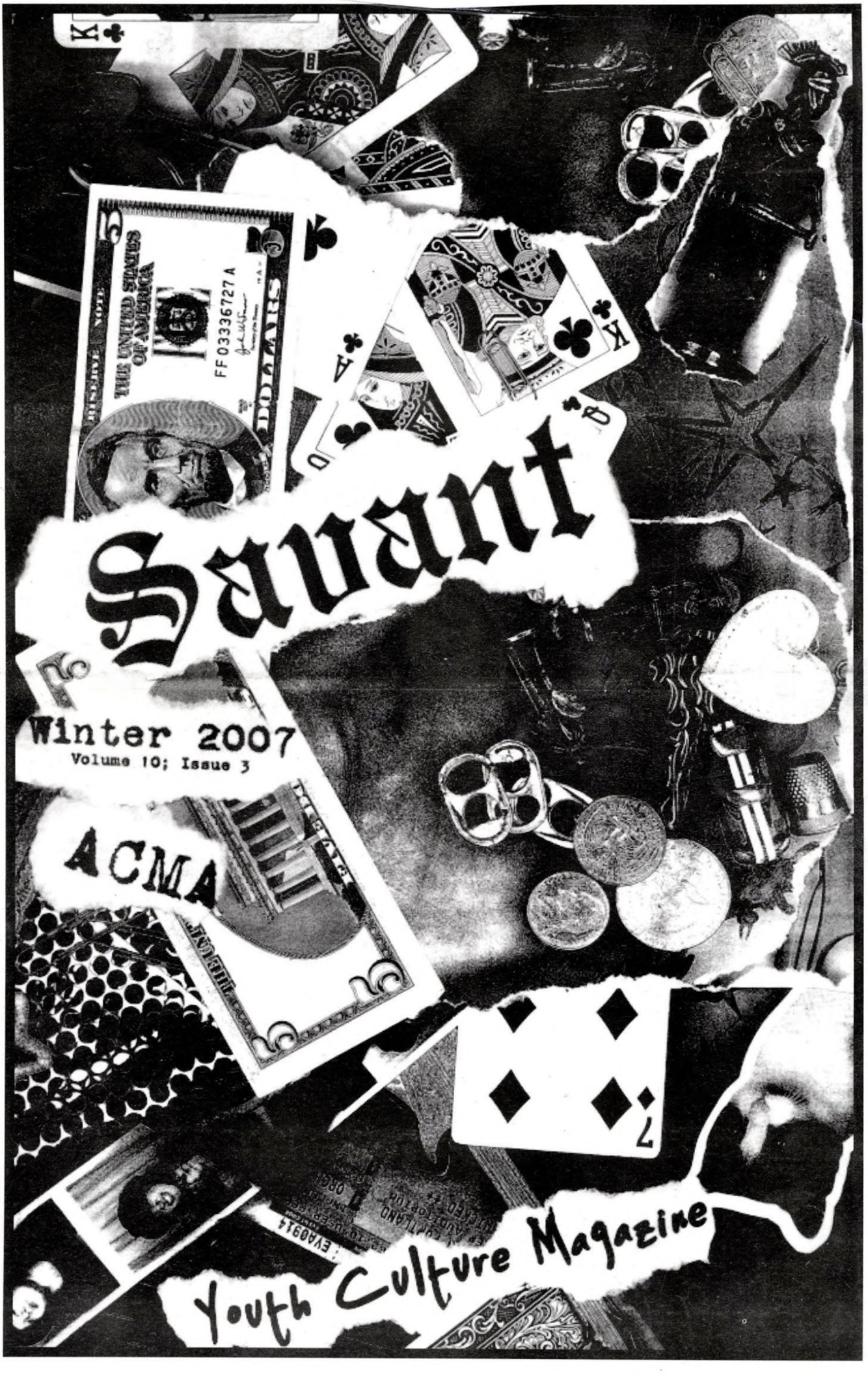
Savant
Winter 2007
Volume 10; Issue 3
ACMA
Youth Culture Magazine

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Option Program Information

Enrollment For 2007-08 Option Programs

Applications for Option Schools/Programs for the 2007-08 school year are being accepted until 4 p.m. on Feb. 9, 2007. Applications in English and Spanish are available in the front offices at each school.

The District will offer 24 Option Schools and Programs for students by fall 2007. A lottery will be conducted for programs where the number of applicants exceeds space available. Applications received after Feb. 9, 2007 will be considered on a space available basis.

The lottery is being utilized this year to provide equal access for all students and to make the programs more accessible to the growing number of diverse students in the District. The first round of student placement will be finalized by March 12, 2007. A second lottery may be held by program to fill spaces left by students declining an enrollment offer or failing to respond by the deadline commitment date.

Option Schools and Programs are hosting a series of open houses, visitations, opportunities for shadowing and more through February 1.

For more information, contact Janet Hogue, Coordinator of Option Programs, 503-591-4445.

From the Beaverton School District Website
http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/home/departments/community-involvement/news/enrollment-for-2007-08-option-programs/

MISSION STATEMENT

Savant is a student organized and written youth zine. We believe that the journalism class belongs to the students and that school news should be reported *by* the students. We also believe that each art endorsement at our school should be represented in the paper as equals. We, the staff of Savant, pledge to work hard, dig deep, and most importantly we pledge to represent our unique, amazing school to its fullest extent.

Any complaints, concerns, or questions may be sent to savantcrew@gmail.com where we, the staff of Savant, will try to meet all your needs.

PUBLICATIONS' POLICIES

I. All opinions expressed within are those of the individual student reporters and editors, which may not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the school or the rest of the Savant staff.

II. This youth zine, being the product of middle and high school students, is targeted for mature middle school students and older. Mild profanity, such as "damn" or "hell", may be used sparingly, and mild sexual innuendo and references may be used as well (in a tasteful and not obscene manner).

III. All letters to the editors and advice columnists will be printed, space provided, and will not be discriminated against except in the case of libelous information or personal attacks. The staff reserves the right to edit any letters, and names may be withheld upon request.

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Calendar

FEBRUARY - MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Flowers, Martyr's, and... Chaucer? Valentine's Day was a day appointed to honor the several saints/martyers. Feburuary 14th was chosen because the last of the St. Valentine martyrs died on February 14th. However, this day has also taken on the teachings of Gnostic teacher, Valentinius of Alexandria, whose teachings revolved mostly around Christian Love. Tying into Valentinius is the February Fertility Festivals which honor Vali, the God of eternal light. The first recorded dating of Valentine's Day was in Chaucer's Parlement of Foules (1382), The poem was written to honor the marriage of King Richard II and Anne of Bohemia.				1 Misalliance (Portland Center Stage) Feb 1-4 Act Lady (PCS) Feb 1-28	2 Groundhog Day! DW performs in concert at Majestic Theatre, Corvallis. Civil Rights Lecture (Reed College)	3 Blue Man Group (Rose Quarter)
4 Love Savant Day!	5 ACMA Students Forecast for classes for 2007/08 The Roots (Crystal Ballroom)	6 Jack's Mannequin (Roseland) Hearing the Brain (Newmark)	7 The Day Billy Lived (ACMA FC) 7:00 pm	8 The Day Billy Lived (ACMA FC) 7:00 pm	9 The Day Billy Lived (ACMA FC) 7:00 pm	10 The Day Billy Lived (ACMA FC) 2:00 pm 7:00 pm
11	12 ACT Test given at ACMA Gr 9,10,11! Thelonius Monk Lecture by: Robin D.G. Kelley (Reed College)	13 Poetry Slam (Ava Roasteria) 7:00 pm	14 Valentine's Day! Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (Schnitzer)	15	16 Grease! Acma Movie Night (ACMA Library) 7:00- 9:30 pm	17 Portland Jazz Festival-Pioneer Courthouse Square
18 Worship the Flying Magenta Sqirrel. (Do it.)	19 President's Day No School! Tenacious D (Schnitzer) The Incredible Journey of Jazz (Reed College)	20 Mardi Gras! Family Game Night in Library. PTO Meeting Maya Angelou (Schnitzer)	21 Ash Wednesday Annie (Keller) 20-25	22	23 ACMA Jazz to Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Roy Hargrove (Newmark)	24 Josh Ritter (Aladdin)
25	26 Snow Patrol (Rose Quarter)	27 Cartel (Roseland)	28	1	2 Dr. Suess B-Day	3 Acma Auction Mad Hatter's Ball (Kingstad Center)

Savascope

Michelle Escobar, Staff Writer

images by Maia Powloski

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Pluto's not a planet anymore. Scorpio has been omitted from the zodiac. You are now unclassified. That's okay, you're used to it.

Libra (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Stop being such a diplomat and pick a side. Pie awaits the correct choice.

Virgo (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

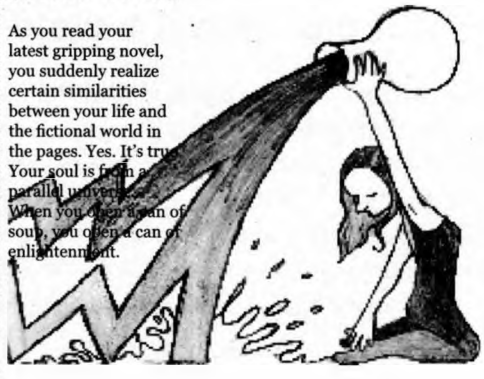
You are not a secret agent. There is no agency. We never had this conversation.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Your adventurous spirit is desirous of a quest. FOR THE SHIRE!!!!!

Aquarius (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

As you read your latest gripping novel, you suddenly realize certain similarities between your life and the fictional world in the pages. Yes. It's true. Your soul is from a parallel universe. When you open a can of soup, you open a can of enlightenment.



Pisces (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

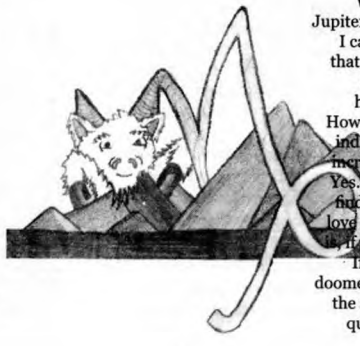
Hey, if you look up the word "guillible" in the dictionary, you'll see your face.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 21)

Just...stop.

Capricorn (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

When Venus is in Jupiter's twelfth house, I can only speculate that it means trouble for Jupiter when his wife finds out. However, for you this indicates a dramatic increase in romance. Yes. You are going to find true and honest love this month. That is, if you like animals. If not, then you're doomed to nothing but the solace found in a quart of ice cream.



Taurus (Apr. 21- may 21)

When you open a can of soup, you open a can of enlightenment.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)

You are not a unique flower. But you are very attractive. Call me.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

If you find yourself torn between staying at home and going to the party, flip a coin.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22)

Hogwarts will finally accept you this month.

COLLEGE STRESS

Bailey Krostoski, Staff Writer

The thought of leaving everything known for a place that is completely unfamiliar and new can be daunting, but it is the reality in the near future of many seniors. It is the time of year for seniors to be scribbling away at their application forms and sweating the ever approaching deadlines.

This year there seems to be more homework, less time, and a lot more pressure. This however is only icing on the cake for seniors who must also endure college applications, interviews, essays, and the occasional nudge from Jill, our very own high school counselor.

Balancing the current school year and all its necessities along with the requirements needed to apply for the next year can quickly become a mess. That's why some teens are now turning to the assistance of a college counselor to help ease the load and make the path a little cleaner. With the guidance of a personal counselor, one can bridge the gap between high school and college with a little better footing knowing that their applications have been edited and their interview questions have been practiced to perfection. Not to mention receiving assistance with the always stressful issue of paying for college.

"They (college counselors) were just wonderfully helpful in the scholarship process," said Tonia Miller about her experiences with college assistance.

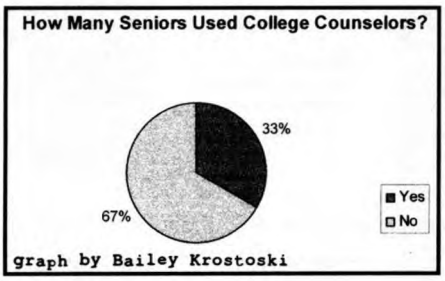
Applying to college can also be very trying on relationships as many seniors are beginning to realize that they will soon be leaving ACMA; a place they have come to love, as well as all the friends and teachers they know so well from their time here.

Families must also face the facts that, whether or not their child moves out of the house after graduation, they will have taken one of the jumps American society acknowledges as a step towards adulthood. While the thought of an ending childhood is not often looked at as the best aspect of the college experience in a parents mind, it can actually strengthen the parent/child bond.

"My parents are quite concerned that I may be going so far away soon. My mom has been spending more time with me," said Hillary Marler.

The fear of losing ones current social connections can make the thought of going to college even harder, that's why some seniors are choosing to attend local colleges that fulfill their academic needs, allowing them to maintain the relationships they have spent several years developing.

School can be stressful, and applying to college only adds it.



Access:

Essential Or Useless?

Lissa Beadle, Staff Writer

"What's up with Access?" Every student has their own opinion and the solution for this much debated issue, seems to have no end in sight. The topic, however, still remains.

The majority opinion seems to be that Access should not be changed. The preventive factor? There is no readily available solution to the problem of people who waste the time that is given to them. If students were given more Access, some say, the time would be squandered far more than it would be used effectively.

However, there are those who now argue that what we have is not sufficient; "Forty minutes a week is not enough," said math teacher, Brian Bertram. People with extra-curricular activities, jobs, or other after-school responsibilities that cut into homework time say that they could really use the extra minutes of Access. Tara Ostrander, a sophomore involved in the Dance West program, said that some teachers are prone to the "Access-effect" - while days that do not include Access or Ohana turn out bits and pieces of non-productive time, the dramatic ten-to-fifteen-minute cut of our hour-and-twenty-minute class time seems to speed things up and make everyone more efficient.

The major concern of both students and staff is: what to do with time-wasters? Between the students who treat Access as a free-for-all and hang out with their friends, and those who genuinely don't have enough work to merit intense focus during the thirty-five-or-so minute period, many feel that in any way changing or adding more Access would benefit only few, while the time would go largely unused. But, argue those in favor of more time, some students do have priorities outside of school and schoolwork.

Some students work to help support their families, some take classes or are involved in sports and other activities outside of school hours, and others have parents who do not regard school as their child's top most priority. Many students who lead generally busy lives do not have the option of changing their circumstances to fit the school year. Certainly, things can be changed in a student's schedule to some degree, but is it fair to force the students into a position where everything revolves around school until they graduate? According to Aubre Gilbert, a sophomore, some teachers are more sympathetic than others to the fact that students do have more on their plate than schoolwork. Others feel that school should be first and foremost for a student. If students should indeed have responsibilities aside from what is necessary for their education, more time may be warranted to allow for the time they need to pursue other things.

No one seems to have the perfect solution, and there are strong opinions on both sides, but most students do agree that further investigation into student stress, homework, and the amount of time allowed for work during school, is necessary. In the meantime, students are still left asking, "What's up with Access?"

ART & SENIORITY:
Jon Anderson

"The original design I based this mural on... I made back in eight grade; [it] was going to be made into a mural but it never got off the ground. So, now that I'm a senior, I decided to go out and do it myself. I'm currently trying to come up with a proper title for it; if anyone has any ideas, keep 'em to yourself 'cause I don't I don't wanna hear 'em."

- Jon Anderson

"Every Day's a Gift"

An Interview with Kaoru Metzler

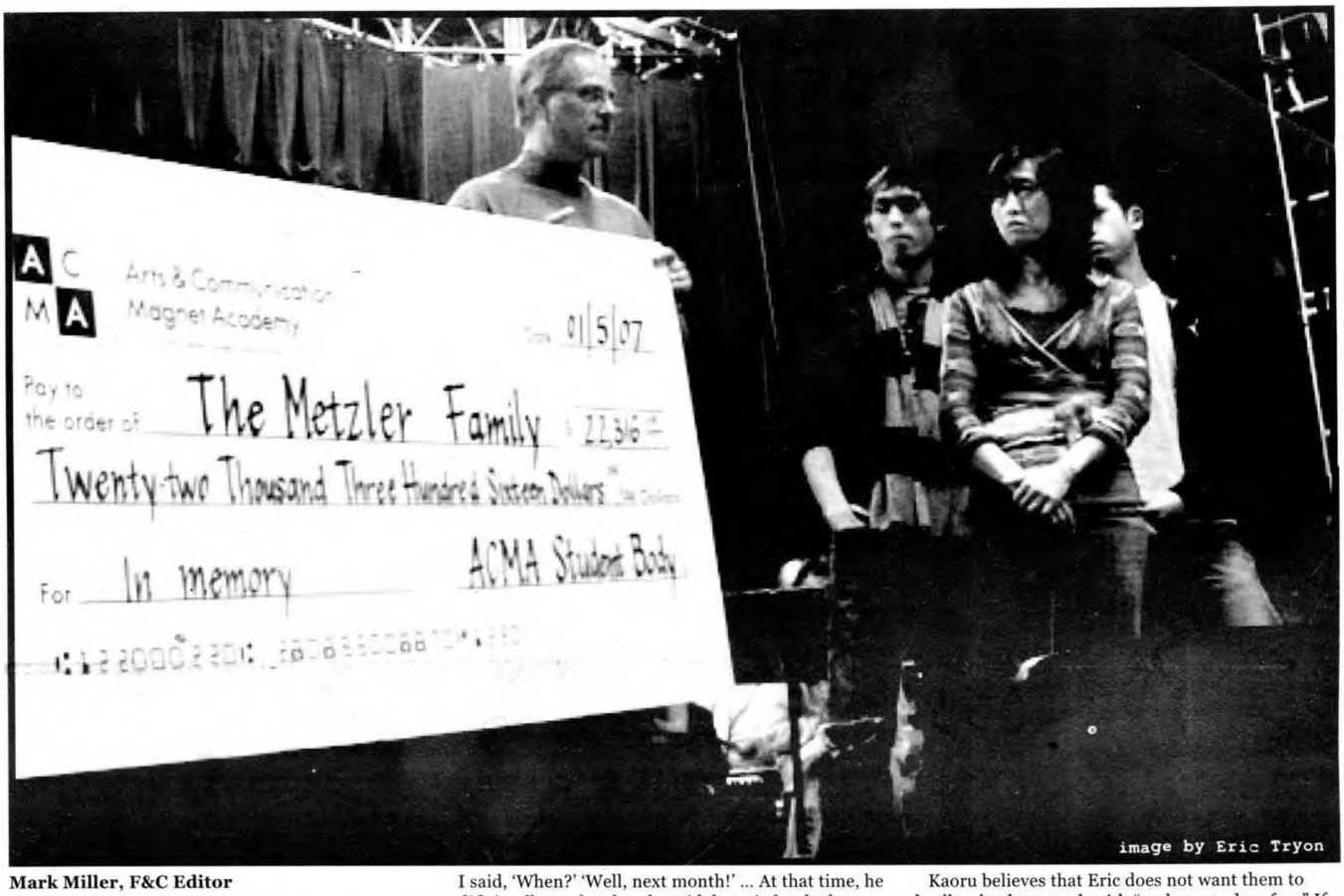


image by Eric Tryon

Mark Miller, F&C Editor

If there is one thing that can be discovered from just a minute's worth of conversation with Kaoru Metzler, it is her great personal strength. She is a quiet, slim, unassuming woman on the outside, but looking deeper and learning her story reveals this basic truth, and she is intimately connected to ACMA through a single man.

Last November began with a tragedy for Kaoru. Her husband Eric, a former ACMA teacher, was killed in a freak accident while working at his job cutting trees. The father of her four children was suddenly gone. The process of healing has been difficult and long, and it continues for Kaoru and her family. But remembering Eric helps to give her a positive outlook. Smiling a little, she described her memories of her husband as "always funny."

"We remember him: just something funny," she recounted. It is a bittersweet remembrance: "Every time we laugh...that's the time we miss him most."Kaoru and Eric met in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1980. She was only 18 years old at the time. He was a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaching English overseas. A relationship eventually developed between the two.

The couple moved to the United States and married in 1983, in Utah. They later returned to Japan, where they lived for almost 11 years and had four children together. They had already been thinking about moving to the United States when an opportunity presented itself.

Eric was in the United States, bringing a couple of his Japanese students to an English-conversation school in Utah, when he discovered the place to which they should move.

"One day he called from America, actually, he was in Oregon, I had no idea; I thought he was in Utah, like every year," Kaoru said. "And he said, 'Well, I'm in Oregon,' and I said, 'Okay...why?' He said, 'Well...we have to move.' I said, 'Where?' 'To Oregon.' I said, 'When?' 'Well, next month!' ... At that time, he didn't tell me...he already paid deposit for the house, a rental, and he already got the phone number." The move commenced despite the expiration of Kaoru's United States Permanent Resident Card. Her husband had it renewed within a month.

Now, seven and a half years later, the family is well settled in Oregon. Joshua, the oldest son, is 22 years old and is attending Oregon State University. Justin is 20 and is going to school at the University of Portland. Michelle is a student at Beaverton High School; she is 17. Their youngest child, Paula, is 12 and is a student at Highland Park Middle School. Both daughters dance.

Kaoru wore a strange expression on her face as she talked about her second son, who had been helping his father on the job when he died on November 1. They believe that it was not a tragic coincidence that he was with him when the accident happened. "Justin told me once..." she recalled; "he feels it was really meant to be that way... there was some reason he had to be there."

> "Don't worry, be happy."

Despite the slow, steady passage of time, it is still hard for her family to believe that Eric Metzler is gone. "We know he's gone, but there's some way... maybe he comes back...that kind of small hope," Kaoru said. "We hold hope. We can't think that way, but..." She trailed off with a small laugh.

One of the most powerful motivators for the Metzlers is their belief that Eric is with them still.

"I think each one of us feels like Eric... is always watching us," said Kaoru, "Everything we do, everything we think depends on how Eric is feeling."

Kaoru believes that Eric does not want them to dwell or be depressed, with "no hope and no fun." If he saw them like that, "He'd want to...just cry, every day, watching us," she commented. Thoughts like that have helped the family to maintain a positive outlook. In January, the Metzlers were the recipients of $22,136.09 raised by the Holiday Sharing annual fundraiser. Kaoru was "overwhelmed."

"I just started crying," she said. "We were so shocked." She explained what moved her the most: "It's not the money; it's the love."

She also believes that her husband was with her the day that she received the check on the Food Court stage.

"I really, really felt Eric that day," she said, a strong tone of surety in her voice. "I never, ever had this kind of experience."

Kaoru thinks that she has felt his presence in other ways as well. She has met and spoken with people in the months since November 1 who have similar stories to hers, and she described the hope and encouragement that she has gained from them.

"Maybe Eric put this person in front of me," she mused of these encounters. She believes that he is watching over her and their children, helping them to carry on with their lives, working through other people.

Perhaps the greatest message of hope that Kaoru has is the Bobby McFerrin song lyric that she and her family decided to use as the epigraph for Eric's grave marker: "Don't worry, be happy."

"When I was really that frustrated and mad about something, he said, 'Oh, don't worry, be happy,'" she laughed. "And I said, 'Eric, be quiet. I'm mad.' But... that's what he always said."

Now she has a new conviction in her philosophy. "Things always can get better. If you're alive, it's okay," she explained. "That's a special gift. ... If you're alive, it's fine."

The Lottery

image by Maia Powloski

Admissions Alterations

Mark Miller, F & C Editor

Although there has been a lot of discussion around school over the "lottery system," the fuss has been somewhat misdirected. ACMA has had a lottery system to keep incoming students at a reasonable number for several years. The fact of the matter is that not all applicants can be admitted due to size constraints.

The controversial change is not the lottery system itself, but the means of admission. While ACMA has required that specialized applications be filled out to allow the administration to filter out applicants who do not seem suited for the school, a common application for all option schools in the Beaverton School District, except Summa, is slated to replace this form beginning with the applicants of 2007. This common application asks only for basic info, such as name, age, address, grades, attendance, etc., and does not permit the administration to pick and choose who will make it into the lottery pool.

Beaverton Superintendent Jerome Colonna defended this move. "Yes, I will take full responsibility in the decision," said Colonna. "Everyone who has an interest should have an equal shot. I looked at what I thought was a discriminatory practice, and I did what I thought was, for a public school, the right way."

Colonna and other defenders of the change have stated their beliefs that the current admissions system at ACMA and other option schools is "unfair" and suggest that this change will provide "equal access" for all students.

"We're eliminating the whole idea of interviews and essays," said Janet Hogue, recently appointed "options coordinator" for the Beaverton School District. "This is a public school system, and we want equal access for all students."

Critics argue that the new common application does not differentiate between applicants with a level of interest and ability and those applying for entry for other reasons, such as ACMA's high test scores and "exceptional" ratings.

Also being changed is the (officially) mandatory nature of the "shadow" program, through which students can experience a day in the life of an ACMA student by "shadowing," or following, a selected student and sitting in on each of his or her classes for one day. While the program is still available and popular (at the time of authorship, 192 students have shadowed), it is no longer a prerequisite for application.

There are over 200 students on the waiting list for ACMA. There are 82 slots available to them. Of these, most are in the sixth and ninth grades. The sizes of the seventh-, eighth-, tenth-, eleventh-, and twelfth-grade classes will not change next school year.

The new common-application system will strip the school administration of the power of selectivity in choosing which applicants will make it into the lottery. Each applicant, regardless of gender, racial background, income level, qualifications, or reason for applying, will go straight into the lottery pool for the 2007/2008 school year. Equal opportunity is assured: one student has the same value in a randomized computer database as any other.

Voices of ACMA

Opinions do not reflect viewpoints of ACMA or Savant Staff.

"There should be a lottery, only all the bad people get weeded out."
Katie Newton, Sophomore

"I think it's a sad, sad time for magnet schools and for students who want to be surrounded by other students who have the same learning integrity and passion for the arts."
Treasurer Richard Stadig, Junior

"Some kids don't get picked even if they're talented"
Lisa Cronk, 8th grader

images by Bethany Cardo, quotes collected by JoAnna Wendel

IN A NUTSHELL

The Lottery

Michelle Escobar, Staff Writer

"In a Nutshell" is a new column headed by Michelle Escobar discussing, in a nutshell, what the topic of our features section actually is. Enjoy.

image by Maia Powloski

Supposing I was a nut, I would be in a dark place and have a desperate fear of squirrels. I would not only be nutritional, but inquisitive about the world outside my shell and eager to burst with knowledge (and antioxidants). If I were a nut, my friends, I would be simple and direct.

- The buzz being caused by the implementation of a common application for all Beaverton options programs has everybody a little bit nuts. From the interior of my secluded shell, these are the facts:
- ACMA has been using a lottery process to randomly select a set number of lucky winners from a pool of accepted applicants since the number of applicants exceeded the available slots roughly 4 years ago. They used interviews and applications to determine which names would go into a smaller lottery.
- The application for ACMA in previous years was 8 pages long, outlined admissions criteria, asked for students' reason for applying, and gave information about ACMA.
- There are 23 options programs available to the students of the Beaverton School District, including ACMA. These include Summa, SST (School of Science and Technology), the International School of Beaverton, Rachel L. Carlson, and for 2007/2008 it will include Science Academy and Medical Magnet High School.
- The new "common application", one page, asks for a student's name, address and general information, their "first" and "alternative" choice in options programs, and gives a list of admissions deadlines.
- Shadowing for ACMA was once mandatory in the application process. Under the "common application" lottery, it is now optional, but strongly recommended.
- There were 256 applicants vying for 82 slots next school year as of January 31, 2007.
- 68 slots are for sixth-graders and 14 more are for freshmen. There are few available slots for the other grades. In the event that a student chooses to leave, their slot will be filled by a lottery-selected applicant of that same grade.
- Summa, a middle school for the district's top academic achievers, is excluded from the common application process and only accepts applicants who have scored in the 99th percentile when tested.
- Superintendent Jerome Colonna calls the current applications for option schools a "discriminatory practice," under the justification that impoverished and/or non-English speaking families do not receive the same opportunities to apply to options programs or do not meet the qualification due to being unable to pay for music/dance/art lessons or for tutoring.
- The recently hired Beaverton options coordinator, Janet Hogue, stated in an article for The Oregonian published December 13, 2006, "We're eliminating the whole idea of interviews and essays. This is a public school system, and we want equal access for all students."

The Lottery

The Chessboard

... is the new opinion section supplementing the features, that we are introducing to *Savant* this issue. This area will include pro and con opinions on our features topic, such as in this month's Lottery section. Following is our first Chessboard. Enjoy.

"The Pro"

BUILD A BRIDGE AN GET OVER IT

Maia Powloski, CopyEditor

Lottery or no, as long as students continue to choose to attend ACMA instead of their neighborhood school we will remain unique. That choice is what makes us different, and the lottery won't change whether or not kids choose to come here.

The word "lottery" can hardly be uttered without provoking claims from upset students that more kids are coming here who do not want to be here, whose parents make them come here, or who only come here because the school is small, or because ACMA offers exceptional dance and jazz band programs.

I'm not tolerating the lottery because I'm rolling over to let bureaucratic Big Brother School Board stomp on me. I'm tolerating the lottery because in this thing called life, things change! Human beings fear change because they do not know what that change will bring. The unknown is scary. I do not pretend to know or understand the changes that the lottery admittance system may or may not bring. Like everyone else, I do not know what is in the future.

What I know beyond any doubt is that ACMA is the perfect place for me. Whatever changes, if any, that the lottery may bring, I cannot imagine any that would be immediate and drastic enough for me to leave. The only thing that will take me away from ACMA is college.

Virtually every ACMA student plans to go to college. Even if they do not, no one can stay at ACMA forever. Years, or perhaps only months later, some graduates may return to visit. They may find that the school has changed since the days they attended, and not all of the changes will be positive. The school will have changed, because, if for no other reason, people have changed. Last year's seniors left. A portion of last year's eighth graders decided to go to their neighborhood high school. A new batch of sixth graders arrived.

Sixth graders—their arrival was another change that was once more than controversial among long-time ACMA students, particularly upperclassmen. The 2003-2004 school year was the first to have sixth graders in ACMA attendance. At the time, high school students, and even a few seventh and eighth graders, were convinced that this change would bring about the doom of our beloved arts magnet school. "They're so immature" became the whine of many older students.

Three school years later, some still complain of obnoxious, elementary school-like behavior in our eleven- and twelve-year-old compatriots. In general, though, the groans have subsided.

I could be wrong, but I suspect that the lottery's controversy will wane just as the complaints about young middle school students did several years ago. Until the last students graduate who were admitted in the "traditional" interview and audition process, low grumbles will persist regarding the new lottery system. Everyone likes to reminisce about the good old days, whether those "good old days" were before TV, before the Internet, or before the ACMA lottery.

There's that old, now-clichéd proverb known as the serenity prayer.

image by Maia Powloski

driven school because my contentment in my neighborhood school was not high enough? Would you feel I belonged there, in a place you loved because everyone there could relate to you, and you could relate to them, and this chemistry between you was amazing, and I suddenly showed up without care for your special focus, simply because a flyer had been sent to my parents saying all I needed to do was fill out a form and the specialness of your school was put under my name, when you and I both know the only thing I do is help demean it?

Having answered that, do you know what this lottery does to our school? And how can you say it does anything good for it.

I ask this question: If you are a student attending a school which is dedicated to the study of math, and the only students that go there find themselves enveloped in different mathematical equations, solutions and ideas, and studies on your school tell officials you are so special, because every one of your peers becomes so involved with the focuses of your school, would you want me there if I had absolutely no desire for math, and only wanted to go to your math desire, dreams and the willingness to reach them.

"The Con"

ACMA'S LIKE A GLASS OF ORANGE JUICE...

Austin Miller, Staff Writer

There are a lot of deniable facts in the world. Such as the myth that dog's mouths are cleaner than human's, or that daddy long legs are the most poisonous spiders in the world, but one undeniable fact is that you and I go to an arts school. You read right--it's called The Arts an Communications Magnet Academy. You decided to go here, and by doing so, I hope you are an artist. That by coming here your dream is to excel and live within the walls of your art, is what it should be. That you wish to disappear into a room with your art, live it and breath it. If you don't feel like this then, in my opinion, you never should have come here.

ACMA is like a glass of orange juice. Lets just say this orange juice contains no water--just pure, fresh squeezed liquid from the fruit itself. Now, this juice is the talent, the drive, the concentration, the dreams, the art of this school, and this juice is buzzing, stirring, amazingly concentrated, so special. Unfortunately there are spots of H2O, the de-concentration that tries to work their way in, to take advantage of the specialty of it--when they are not artists themselves. Everyone has their special places, and not everyone can have this. By having a random lottery, a lottery of juice with H2o inside it, bits and droplets of water gets accepted, and slowly, over time, as more water droplets are put into our juice, we begin to de concentrate. We begin to become diluted. We begin to become less special. If there is a school that discriminates against scores on a test, why could there not be one that discriminates against the quality of art put forth. There carries no difference besides what category of effort and work that is being put out and judged on fair and just levels. The only thing this lottery is going to succeed in doing is one thing: reducing the quality of art that is made here by reducing the concentration of drive,

Paraphrased, it is, "...Grant me the courage to change the things I can, to accept the things I can't, and the wisdom to know the difference."

I hope that I have enough wisdom to tell the difference between what I can and cannot change. I think that the lottery admittance system at ACMA is here to stay. No matter students' protests, the decision has been made. ACMA students need to tolerate and eventually accept it.

"Build a bridge and get over it" may sound harsh, but the "bridge" part is important. I and others who accept the lottery system are not lying down in the river of things beyond our control and letting the water take us where it will. We will build bridges to work with and around the things that are beyond our control. There is a middle ground between going with the flow and getting rid of the river altogether.

The lottery is happening, like it or not. Build a bridge and get over it.

"NOT SELECTED"

JoAnna Wendel, Staff Artist

image by Corrin Garr

Corrin Garret

image by Jeanette Conner

"I really like art," said Corrin Garret, a former prospective applicant. "I liked ACMA's art-friendly environment." Garret was in eighth grade when she heard about the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy. She went through the application process, writing the essay, going through the interview, submitting art.

After weeks of waiting, Garret's letter came. She was not selected.

Garret now attends Southridge High School. There she is very involved in theater. She played a lead role as a lizard in the play "Seascape" which was submitted to a Thesbian Conference and won. In June she's flying out to Nebraska with her four other cast members to perform the play in front of thousands of people. "My friends always make jokes that now we're nationally acclaimed," jokes Garret.

AP ART PROFILES

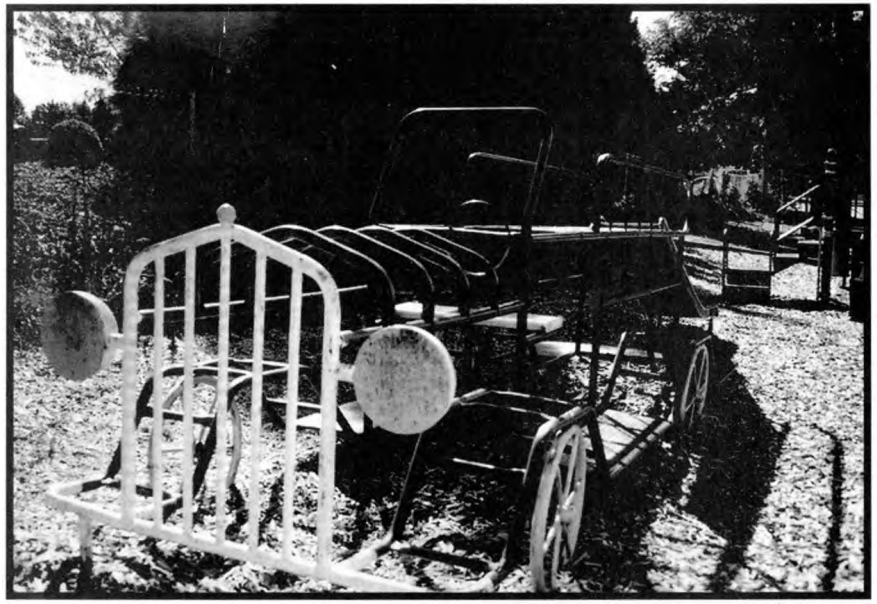
"A Study of Brandau"
Briana Hamar

"Katie Acheson"
Bailey Krostoski

"Ancient Flow"
Michael Lee

Garden of

Rhythm and Rhyme



"Toy"
Ian Moldovan

"Confusion"
Zoe Sherman

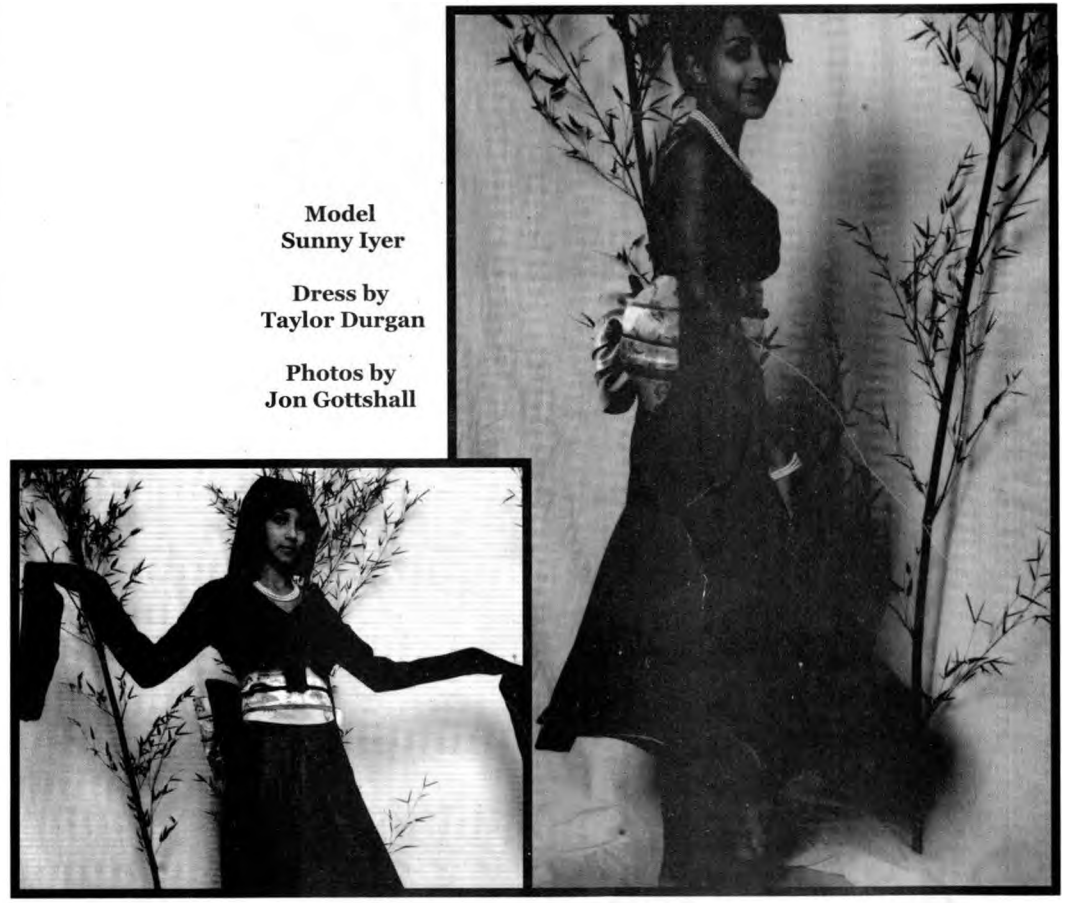
Like a swarm of bees
Flying around my head
What is happening
That remains unsaid
Cold words, warm gestures
Left or right
Up or down
The sky gray
Or deep pastel blue
Stardust in the moonlight
Or moonlighted stardust
Every word a buzz
A click, a beep
Light turns dark
Dark turns gray
What am I?
Confusion

Chelsea Edwards

Model
Sunny Iyer

Dress by
Taylor Durgan

Photos by
Jon Gottshall



FASHION AT ACMA

Students' Guide to Almost All-Natural Home Remedies

Lisa Beadle, Staff Writer

As students and staff spend most of their waking hours rubbing shoulders with other people on campus all school year, they are exposed to a rather high concentration of contagions. So, for the convenience of desperate sniffle-sufferers, here are a list of some favorite home remedies amongst students and staff.

Sweet as Honey

Ingredients:

6 oz. cup of hot water
1 large spoonful of honey
1 wedge of fresh lemon
1 tablet Airborne Cold Remedy

Empty honey into hot water, squeeze lemon into mixture and stir well. Add Airborne Cold Remedy and let the tablet dissolve. This recipe is good for those who are squeamish pill-takers.

Provided by Leann O'Rourke, librarian

Mmm... Minty

Ingredients:

1 container Icebreakers Mint Sugar Free Cool Mint
1 pack Wrigley's Winterfresh gum
Ice Drops® IcyMint

Good when something strong is needed, this extra-minty recipe is effective to distract from pain, which is helpful when nothing else can be done. Wrap the Icebreaker in the gum and soak the wrap in 5 drops of liquid mint. Chew this while dealing with pain, renewing the flavor with added Icebreakers and mint drops as needed. This remedy is useful in a variety of circumstances. If nothing else, it might be useful for halitosis sufferers.

Provided by Lissa Beadle, grade 10

Tough It Out

Ingredients:

A dash of family time
Any sort of warm food

Gather all ingredients for this stone soup of sorts and buckle down because you're waiting this virus out.

Provided by Angela Nguyen, grade 9

Comfort Food (Beef and Broccoli Soup Recipe by Diana Rattray)

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lean ground beef
3 cups broccoli, chopped
1 cup fresh mushrooms, chopped
1/2 cup celery, chopped
1 cup carrots, sliced
1/4 cup green pepper, chopped
4 cups tomato juice
1/2 cup water
1/4-1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon thyme
1/4 teaspoon oregano

Brown beef; drain off fat. Add vegetables, tomato juice, water, and seasonings. Place in slow cooker; cover and cook on low for 8-9 hours.

Provided by Athena Lapka, grade 9

Here's to our health!

ACMA JAZZ

Wa wa wa, (Left to Right) seniors Joel Luxenburg, JJ kirkpatrick, and junior Devin Riley play *Black and Tan Fantasy* by Duke Ellington, at the school assembly January 5th, 2007, in the Food Court.

YAGI

A Profile Piece

Spencer Bergen, Staff Photographer

One has probably seen Chelsea Martin (a.ka. Yagi) walking down the halls a few times before. She wears flowing black skirts and has short brown hair and usually keeps pretty quiet.

She came to Arts and Communication in her 6th grade year to pursue an interest in visual arts. Drawing since the age of six, she prefers a manga inspired style but says that "It's sort of a variation of that, not really Manga."

When she came to ACMA, Yagi was excited to see that she could practice her visual arts in a new environment. ACMA was a breath of fresh air to her, saying that in her elementary school some kids were a lot meaner and picked on other a great deal more than they do here. "It's so much different here, it's not nearly as bad as other schools, there's nice people here."

When she isn't sketching, Yagi enjoys politics and is always following up on the latest political election outcomes or decisions in the House. But politics aren't the only academic things that are interesting to her.

> "I don't like it when I'm forced to learn about a certain thing in history, I mostly do it on my own."

"I like history...I like to read a lot of historical fiction," she comments. Surprisingly, however, she doesn't really enjoy her history class.

"I don't like it when I'm forced to learn about a certain thing in history, I mostly do it on my own." Instead of the forced curriculum, Yagi prefers to do her own independent study of the history of the middle ages. " A lot of things changed [in the middle ages] and I like the style of living."

Yagi is also pursuing a hobby in writing. She has been working on a book for a while now and the plot is currently under wraps, or as she says "Too complicated to explain." Her characters are inspired by the random people and she likes to keep her characters original with their personalities formed from different aspects of inspiration. Interesting enough, even with a book under way, she sometimes has trouble coming up with good ideas for classes such as English with her instuctor Mr. David Sikking.

image by Chelsea Martin

"In Sikking's class we are writing about one time that we were really scared, and I can't really think of anything."

Now a freshman in high school, Yagi lives at home with her mother and three cats. She dreams of having just a normal life without frustration and enjoys lazy days where she doesn't do much of anything. Even among traces of sloth, however, she still has this to say, "Greed needs to be gotten rid of, I see it everywhere, with money, with everything...I observe people sometimes and just wonder why they do what they do."

Yagi is just another example of why people shouldn't "judge a book by its cover". While she may seem quiet and and shy at first, she is just one more person at this school, with hidden depths.

A HISTORY OF THE POETRY SLAM

Mark Miller, F&C Editor

The monthly event known as the Poetry Slam has become a beloved community tradition. Although it is only a little more than a year old, it has become a staple of writing both at ACMA and within its community.

"Students want to have a voice for their art," Mr. Jon Albertson explained. "Writing is one of the several areas that I don't think gets as much exposure as it should."

Together with then-sophomores Alysha Kunkel and Jeanette Conner, Albertson launched the Poetry Slam event on October 4, 2005: the first Tuesday of the month. With fourteen performances under its belt, the Poetry Slam is still going strong.

"It surprised me, how fast it grew," said Albertson. He admitted that while he had expected it to grow, he had thought that it would take a longer time than it did to reach its current level of popularity.

Conner confessed that she had doubts that the school community would take any interest. "I didn't expect to see any people I didn't 'boss' into coming," she said.

Against these odds, though, the Slam has exploded. It was an almost immediate success, providing an outlet for aspiring poets to showcase their work and at least partially filling a gap left by the quiet demise of the Brown Bag talent show of years past. Musical performances quickly became the norm as well.

"I didn't expect to see any people I didn't 'boss' into coming."

The first musical performer at a Poetry Slam was Daniel Lambert, now a senior. "I attended the first Poetry Slam," said Lambert, "and the entire time I was there, I wished I had a guitar so I could, you know, say what I wanted to say and have people hear it." He brought his guitar to the second Poetry Slam and played a few original songs; in that instant, the Poetry Slam expanded to cover music as well. "I started playing at [the Poetry Slams] because I feel that music is my poetry," Lambert explained.

The pull of the Poetry Slam has transcended even the graduation of alumni. At the December 2006 Poetry Slam, Rochelle Miller, former student and current freshman at George Fox University, returned to sing an original piece entitled "Prince Charming" and read some of the poetry that she has written in the months since her graduation last year. "I came back because all my friends are younger than me and good at writing poetry," said Miller, "therefore they would be at the Poetry Slam. ... And I like to share my poetry," she added with a grin.

Not everybody comes for the poetry; in fact, a good number of people come more for the social environment than anything else, like junior Ian Moldovan. "[It's] just a good place to hang out," Moldovan, a regular attendee, said.

"We do not score, do not judge--we just appreciate."

Colleen Hayes, freshman, regards the Slam in a similar light. "I just go and hang out with people in a comfortable place," Hayes shrugged. She said that she thought that poetry was "okay," but it is not why she attends. For Hayes, the Poetry Slam is a social event rather than an artistic exhibition.

For the first year of its run, from October 2005 to September 2006, the Poetry Slam was located at Coffee People on SW 117th Avenue. In October of 2006, it was moved to Ava Roasteria, located at 4655 SW Hall Street, on the corner of SW 2nd Street. Although the new venue is a further distance from the school, it offers increased space and lower prices for food and drinks.

Coffee, after all, is part of the Poetry Slam experience. Many attendees will order a latte, snuggle into a comfortable couch, and listen and watch as poetry is read, guitars are plucked, and songs are sung. "It's like gasoline for a car," opinioned Conner. "It helps us keep going." She added, "There's some kind of spiritual thing about caffeine and poetry. They just go together. You think of one, you think of the other."

The duration of the Poetry Slam has been marked by the constance of the emcee: the illustrious Spencer Parsons, a junior. At nearly every Slam, Parsons has been present at the microphone to provide his brand of irreverent commentary and wisecracks. "Spencer's lively. He 'goes there,'" said Lambert. "Our Poetry Slams need charisma, and he's a huge source of enthusiasm." "It's bitchin'," said Parsons of his job. He did not elaborate.

Memorably, the Slam last June was held in the backyard of Albertson's house. Readers and players entertained the large crowd as a bonfire crackled and evening snackers toasted (and burned) marshmallows on skewers. Albertson, when asked if that event would repeat in 2007, shrugged and said only, "I don't know."

Though both Kunkel and Conner are set to graduate next year, many hope that the tradition will live on. However, some have their doubts. "It probably won't be as good," said Hayes, a regular attendee. "It's mostly managed by the upperclassmen." For younger students to rise to that level and keep it strong, she believes that they will "have to learn to be mature."

"There's a fifty-fifty chance," said Brianna Bell, sophomore, of the chances for post-2008 survival. She indicated that she thought that the Slam could die if the quality of the poetry goes down. But after a moment, she added, "Well, some of the younger kids are actually pretty good poets."

"I guess I'll just have to train someone for the position," joked Kunkel when asked.

The next Poetry Slam will be held at Ava Roasteria on February 13, 2007. As always, it runs from 7:00to 8:30 p.m. Walk-ins are always welcomed and jokes are always appreciated. "We do not score, do not judge--we just appreciate," said Kunkel.

To sign up for a reading spot or to volunteer to be Guest of the Month, contact the co-founders at poestryslam@gmail. com, which is not a typo--just a nickname for the Slam, invented by Parsons.

The Eye of an Artistic Storm

Michelle Escobar, Staff Writer

A vaguely apocalyptic downpour, the likes of which have not been seen for several months, cascades from the sky in unforgiving gusts of wind. Most kids pull their hoodies and jackets over their heads, fleeing the icy water like the plague, but some embrace the weather with gusto; that is, until they can no longer feel their faces, at which point they rush back inside. In the harshest of weather, however, one person can always be seen with arms wide open to the sky, spinning in circles while barefoot. This person is none other than Morgana Spake.

In her five years here, Morgana's personality–a careful mixture of serenity and enthusiasm—has managed to attach itself to the memories of all those who have had the opportunity to work with her. From her work as a technician for Dance West to her ambrosial poetry and numerous works in the theatre department, Morgana has a great and colorful repertoire.

Her acting style is soft, carfully exploring the big picture and seeing how everything will come together. She humbly harmonizes her own shining moments onstage with those of her scene partners, demonstrating a healthy understanding of the difference between playing introversion and extroversion.

Morgana recently starred in A *Midsummer Night's Dream* as Hermia, a rebellious lover, but her hand in the show's run was not limited to her acting. She also sewed costumes for numerous characters in the show.

"I applied 5 years ago," she related as she pinned material around an actress for a dress. "And it was, well, amazing!" She laughed delightedly, then grew quiet as she pursed three pins between her lips. When asked about the moment she decided the "cafegymakwanzaatorium" would be her abode, a wistful gleam stole into her eye. "I was staying through (for a show) and I was lying on the apron of the stage. Everyone was gone and I was by myself, sprawled out underneath the skylight with tea in one hand, and an apple in the other. I was thinking, and suddenly I realized 'I'm never going to leave here!' The stage has been my home ever since."

Morgana is a senior this year, and looking at Southern Oregon University in Ashland as her primary college option since she participated in an acting seminar there for two weeks over the summer. "I'm not going to miss this stage," she laughed again and glanced the battered and chipped black stage, complete with an accoustics-swallowing patchwork ceiling. Her face fell as memories of many opening nights and cast parties flooded her. "But I'm really going to miss this stage."

Morgana Spake
photo by Whitney Ringwald

Have you ever talked to a friend from another art focus area and they said something you couldn't quite understand? Savant is here to help! Each issue of Savant will now bring you 5 tricky terms from different focus areas so that things are no longer lost in translation. This month, Savant will focus on terms of theatre.

Dorit Harvey, A&C Editor

Blocking
Outlining basic movements of an actor on stage during a certain scene; this is basically what the first rehearsals of a play are used for.

Footlights
Lights placed on the floor of the stage, at the front.

Gels
Tinted plastic filters placed over a light in order to change its color.

House
The audience.

Upstage
As a noun: The area of a stage furthest from the house. Originated in ancient stages which were slightly tilted, so the back of the stage was further up than the front.
As a verb: To take attention away from another actor.

MONTHLY GLOSSARY

SHABSARA

TRULY AMAZING LAMB

image by Maia Powloski

Michelle Escobar, Staff Writer

Shabsara Persian Cuisine lies nestled in the corner of a Scholls Ferry side strip next to a Middle Eastern grocery store. The location--a spacious, high-ceilinged room--is filled with pastel-colored chairs, a few cream vinyl booths, and several arabesque lithographs of voluptuous sirens and various heroic deeds.

"It was impossible to keep from finishing the entire plate."

As my family and I were seated in our own booth late one Thursday evening, we enthusiastically ordered tea and a hummus appetizer. The atmospheric room felt still and hushed as we awaited the arrival of our main courses, and remained eerily so until I realized what was missing: no music was playing at all. Perhaps it was due to the late hour, but a slightly tense feeling hovered over our meal when it finally arrived.

The menu's selection managed to hit a mark with each member of my family; from the juicy roasted tomatoes to the masterfully marinated kabobs, to the tantalizing rice peppered with savory spices; each delicious dish filled the stomach as much as the soul. The best order had to be the lamb kabobs, prepared to such succulent perfection that it was impossible to keep from finishing the entire plate.

Location:
11427 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.
Beaverton

Local Panamanian Rating:
4 and a half stars

Website:
http://www.shabsara.com

ACMA Acting Company Presents

The Day Billy Lived

By Chistopher Craddock
Directed by David Stiers and Meryl Moens

February 7.8.9 and 10
Curtain: 7:00 p.m.

Box Office: 503-672-3700
Extension: 4

February 10
Curtain: 2:00 p.m.

$8.00 Adults
$5.00 Students

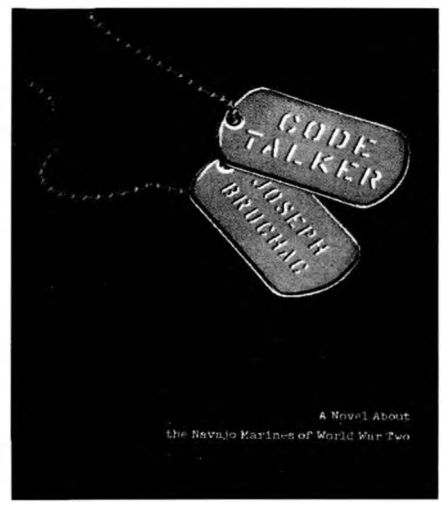
World War II: Code-Talker

Alysha Kunkel, Co-Editor-in-Chief

During World War II the United States Marine Corps, under the Dept. of the Navy, recruited bilingual Navajos to form a new division of the army: the code talkers. These men primarily transmitted secret, tactical messages using codes derived from their native languages. The novel *Code Talker*, by Joseph Bruchac, follows the life of a sixteen year old boy Navajo, given the white name Ned Begay.

As a young boy, Kii Yázhí is growing up in a changing world. At the age of six, he is sent to the Navajo mission school where he quickly learns that anything related to the Navajo culture will get him nothing but punishment. He is named Ned Begay. Determined to exceed in the white man's world he excels in classes while secretly being true to his culture, speaking Navajo in private. After Pearl Harbor is hit, the Marines wish to recruit Navajos specifically. Their task is a great secret. Suddenly, the thing that white men tried to beat out of him his whole life, is needed to help win a war.

During his boot camp and his missions Begay grows up quickly, learning about life, death, friendship, and racism. He learns to be proud of who he is. He strengthens his faith and pride in the Navajo culture. This novel tells a story, in first person. It is a story told to the main character's grandchildren, and is a reason for them to be proud.



Communication Breaks Cycle of Ignorance

Maia Polowski, Copy Editor

The term "medieval" inspires images of knights, castles, King Arthur, and damsels in distress for many people. Despite the everyday perils faced by medieval Europeans, the medieval era has been romanticized in both ancient and modern literature. The real Europe of the Middle Ages was often far from the golden image of Camelot. Accused witches were burned, "madmen" were whipped, and children were sent to the gallows for petty theft. Sherryl Jordan's *The Raging Quiet* focuses on this latter image of the Middle Ages, where generosity is scarce and prejudices are quickly made and nearly impossible to break.

At the age of sixteen, Marnie has been married to Isake, a man twice her age. When a freak accident kills him, the villagers of the tiny coastal town of Torcurra are convinced that Marnie murdered her husband. Marnie's only allies are Father Brannan, the local priest, and a teenage boy called Raver. Emaciated Raver lacks the ability to speak; his voice is unearthly and incomprehensible, and he is prone to violent fits. Only Father Brannan and Marnie have the courage and patience to give him so much as food to eat or a place to sleep.

Marnie renames Raver "Raven," and her friendship with him grows. As they spend more time together, she discovers what no one else has taken the time or effort to learn: Raven is not mad, but deaf. His furious rages were not of craziness but of frustration at not understanding the "mouth-words" of the townsfolk. Thrilled at her finding, Marnie begins to create "hand-words" to communicate with Raven.

On the novel's pages, Marnie and Raven's sign language is italicized dialogue. Because Marnie invents so many words, her and Raven's speech gains a refreshing simplicity. Often several words are combined to make new ones. The hand gesture for "beautiful," for example, is a combination of two gestures, and means, literally, "moon-good". Marnie and Raven's language has a poetic flow, is completely original, and says a lot about Sherryl Jordan's skills as an author.

Raven is a quick learner. Soon he and Marnie are having eloquent conversations. His angry fits have all but disappeared. He and Marnie live together in her late husband's cottage as friends and equals, an unusual status for men and women of the time.

Raven's seeming tameness and his mysterious language of gestures arouse further suspicion from the Torcurra villagers. This is perhaps *The Raging Quiet's* only flaw: its antagonists are too evil. Aside from Father Brannan and one old man of the village, every single townsperson is against Marnie—elders, adults, and children alike. It is difficult to believe that in any era of history so many people could be united in their hatred and fear of a person who did them no harm and committed no provable crime.

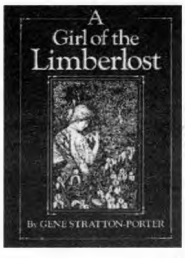
Not only do they believe Marnie to be a murderer, but they think that she may also be a witch. The witchcraft trial that follows tests Raven's understanding of the "normal" human world, Father Brannan's loyalty and friendship to Raven and Marnie, and Marnie's strength, mentally, physically, and emotionally.

The Raging Quiet is a book most enjoyed by readers who are of high school age or older. Were it a movie, it would come close to an "R" rating, with its intense scenes of frenzied, violent villagers, and a scarring witchcraft trial, as well as a few sexual situations. Mature readers of almost any age will enjoy it, however. *The Raging Quiet's* ending is thoroughly satisfying. It is a story of the importance bravery, kindness, and honesty in the face of overwhelming persecution. It takes little analyzing to realize that its characters and commentary apply not just to Medieval Europe, butto every place and time, including—and perhaps especially—the world today.

Grade: 4 out of 5 stars.
The Raging Quiet, by Sherryl Jordan, 264 pages, Simon & Shauster New York, NY 1999

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Alysha Kunkel, Co-Editor-in-Chief



1. *A Girl of the Limberlost* by Gene Stratton-Potter (Classic Literature)

An impoverished young girl of Indiana strives for an education, despite objections of a mother who hates her, and alienation from her peers. Elnora is an emotionally depriven young girl who becomes one of the wealthiest girls in love and friendship, despite the odds against her.

2. *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer (Juvenille Fiction, Paranormal Romance)

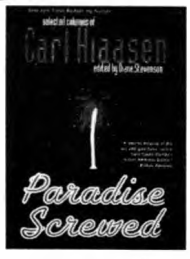
Bella, age 17, has moved to Folks, Washington to live with her father. At her new school, she finds her curiousity piqued by five remarkably beautiful teens who sit alone at lunch. As her interest in them grows, she learns their secret, which changes her life forever.

3. *Dealing with Dragons* by Patricia C. Wrede (Juvenile Fiction, Fantasy)

Princess Cimorene cannot stand her life of luxury and expected obedience. With news of betrothal in the air, She escapes only to be captured by a dragon. In exchange for her life, Cimorene becomes a captive Princess to Kazul the dragon, cooking food and cleaning house and surprisingly enjoying it. When princes far and wide come to rescue her Cimorene stops at nothing to discourage them.

4. *Paradise Screwed* by Carl Hiassen (Collection of Articles)

A collection of Miami Herald articles that attacks everything from government officials and politics, to school boards and sports. Written with a satirical bite, these articles will leave anyone laughing.



Art as Expression: The Danger

Mark Miller, F&C Editor

Arts & Communication Magnet Academy has been the springboard for many young artists; it shows no sign of stopping this outpouring of creative spirit anytime soon. Although its designs are known, the reason for its purpose can often be forgotten: art is important and art is valuable because art is powerful. The level of the success of this school must therefore be measured by how it equips its graduates to handle the responsibility of art and the power within it beyond the formative years of high school.

One of the areas of art offered by this school is theatre, which is somewhat unique in its influence and character. Theatre invites its performers to shed self. The actor sloughs off mannerisms and idiosyncratic movements to assume a role. It is a state of being, not acting. The true actor does not merely pretend to be somebody that he is not; he is that person onstage. His ordinary self must be discarded. Still, he should easily understand how the lines can blur, how reality and fiction intermingle on the stage.

There is a great danger about losing oneself in another person (or persona, perhaps). "All the world is a stage," wrote William Shakespeare; to believe him is to concede that the actor is eternally acting. This illustrates the danger therein: losing sight of self amidst the power to become another. The hot spotlights may burn out the man behind all of the masks.

That is the peril of the artist: to get lost in the art. However, love seems far more insidious, subtle and conniving, love of art and passion of art overriding more than the mere responsibility of needing to work. Love ensnares. Love is greater than all else, whether it be love for another, love for society, love for self, romantic love, platonic love, or patriotic love. The artist is driven to an obsessive love that fixes him onto his work, those streams bursting from the myriad mouths of the fountainhead that is his mind and spirit. The artist is ensnared by a passionate devotion to his calling. The artist is compelled to let himself go in the face of the maelstrom that is his inexorability creativity and the productions thereof.

With theatre, the ensnarement and compulsion is a policy of the most profound and enslaving impressments; the actor is trapped in a world of his unconscious making. When he fears most a cage, within which he is set to confinement, his own openness can trap him. The actor merely does not see his walls for the vastness of possibility that he imagines.

This is instability, for there is nothing stable about the surrender of self for the love of acting. The actor drowns and swims at once in an invisibly bounded sea of potential characters. This envelopes his life until he is to be, whatever it is that he will be, because that need ensnares and compels the creative spirit of the actor to desire being over all else, desire it as actively and unconsciously as he desires food or oxygen. He gives to all who see him perform and makes a profound impact on his world. Through his selfless selfishness, he becomes a martyr for creative inspiration and empowerment. The only thing selfish in this is his surrender to burnout before all of his gifts are bestowed. This is not unique to the actor, but is shared by all artists.

The destroying obsession is power. It is sought by these artists and can drive them to ruin. Nothing compares to the power of the creator and the inspirer. Every creation is but a material thing to be generated and manipulated to further ego. That is what Arts & Communication should give artists: a knowledge of self sufficient for the preservation thereof.

Art is the great power to create and breathe life, a warm gust of existence, into something beloved of the creator. Art allows humans to become creators, givers of life, fountainheads. It can consume and create; the trick lies, as usual, in a balancing act.

GOSSIP

"Gossip is the $#%@ that comes out of your mouth when you're not complaining."

-Spencer Bergen

Megan O'Doherty, Co-Editor-in- Cheif

The outbreak of snow brought many things: a limited and frantic euphoria, a befuddling snow schedule, and several scattered snow ball fights.

However, a story that has been swept away with the snow is the story of Conner Crippen and his short term affair with Zelda the cave woman.

> "snow storms bring clans of cave people out"

As everyone knows, snow storms bring clans of cave people out of their dark depths in Siberia and lands them on their short vacations in the region of the snow storm. Luckily for Mr. Crippen, this time the snow storm ended in our fair, frosty Oregon and his sordid love affair was born.

Close friend of Mr. Crippen's, Michelle Escobar, Junior, confided in her first impression of the mysterious Zelda; "She appeared... almost as if through a veil of mist. With her voluptuous hair and wooden spear, [Conner] was immediately smitten, he's always been into that kind of thing."

The couple had to be low profile about their outings, however I spied a romantic trollop in the snow over our long break, and as Zelda clubbed Conner playfully, I could tell that Mr. Crippen was head-over-heels. However, as we all know, cavemen are free spirited women, and cannot handle being tied down for too long to any place or person, in that, Conner sorrowfully bid goodbye to Zelda and has been nursing his broken heart in his studies.

photos of Megan by Khaya Bogarahd

photo of Spencer by JoAnna Wendel

THAT'S WEIRD !

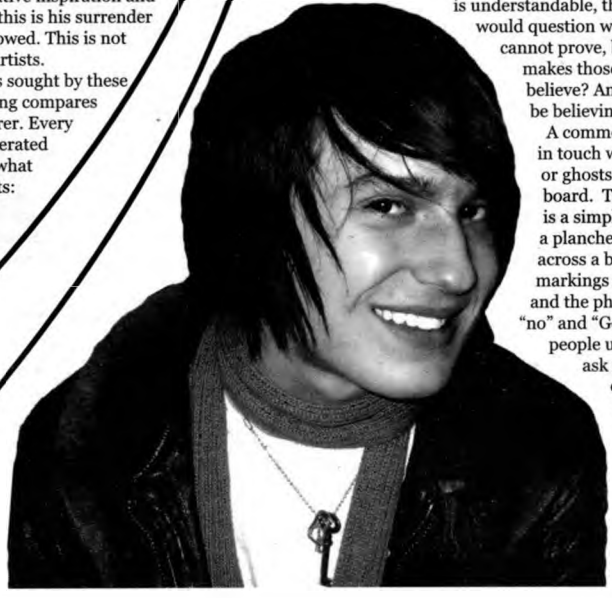
Spencer Bergen Staff Photographer

I have a question for all of you. Do you believe in ghosts? Most people, if they do not say no, will at least be skeptical in their answer of yes. It is understandable, that someone would question what they really cannot prove, but what makes those of us believe, believe? And should we be believing at all?

A common tool to get in touch with spirits or ghosts is the ouija board. The ouija board is a simple board with a planchet that moves across a board with the markings of the alphabet and the phrases "yes" "no" and "Goodbye." The people using the board ask the spirits question and hope for an answer, and many times, they get one. Of course there are the people who will intentionally move the planchet across the board to freak out their friends, but if nobody is doing that, is there an explanation for the mysterious moving object?

...There is a theory that our unconscious mind moves the planchet, that deep within brains we want an answer badly that our muscles spasm and move the piece along the board. This means that if everybody in the room was blindfolded, the message would come out as complete nonsense. This theory makes it out that the whole game is a childs mind game. But what if weirder things have happened on the ouija board other than simple questions being asked? I ask this because I have experienced and heard of such things, stories of the board spinning in circles from one friend, another story of one of the players of the ouija becoming completely paralyzed for a short amount of time. Then there are the things that have happened to me, such as the planchet moving all by itself. Now where does that theory come into place in situations like that?

I believe in ghosts. For those of you who answered no or who are skeptical though, what do you think? Is there actually an explanation for anything? Is everything a matter of circumstance and the unconscious mind? Or do you maybe think that there is something more? Whatever it is, mind or the paranormal, you have to admit; that's weird.



BEACHFEST

image by: Maia Powloski

Jeanette Conner, Photo Editor

Ignorance is bliss. Bliss must then be a synonym with stupidity, failure, or being annoying. Have you ever tried having a serious conversation or argument with someone, and you cannot get through his thick skull with an obvious truth? If yes, then you understand how infuriating ignorance is. If no, than you may want to look into the symptoms of ignorance. If you are ignorant, please for the sake of humanity, wake up!

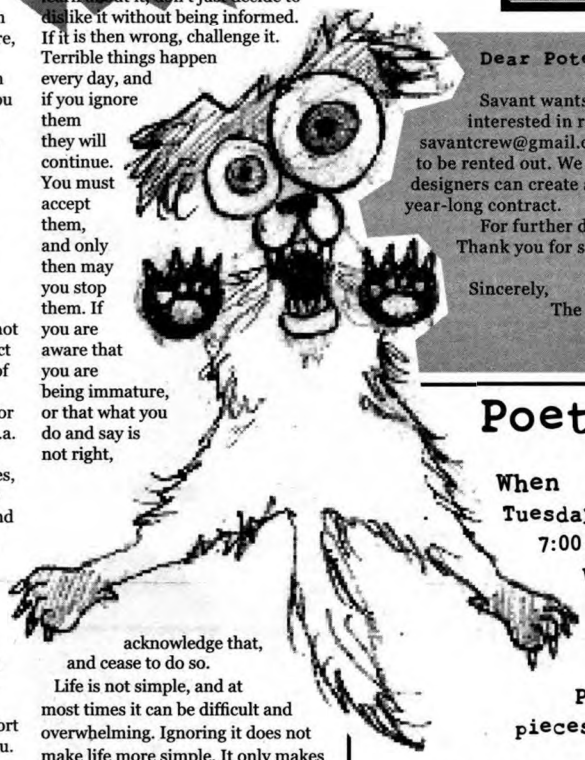
It is acceptable to be naive or unaware; this is not ignorance because it suggests that you have not been exposed to a particular subject of reality. Ignorance, a derivative of the verb "ignore," means that you refuse to accept knowledge, therefor leading to a lack of knowledge, a.k.a. stupidity.

Ignorance is found among all ages, genders and races. No one is more or less at risk for being ignorant and the only cure is to accept that you are wrong and become educated.

The act of ignorance in small amounts may not seem bad, it may even seem good, as in the case of being ignorant of death or disease in the world, ignoring that your dog was killed, ignoring war. Believing that something is not happening may at first bring comfort and happiness. Don't let this be you.

Ignorance is weakness, and an obstacle. How, in a world that isn't so bright, is anyone supposed to change things, improve things, if people continue to be ignorant?

If something is new or strange, learn about it, don't just decide to dislike it without being informed. If it is then wrong, challenge it. Terrible things happen every day, and if you ignore them they will continue. You must accept them, and only then may you stop them. If you are aware that you are being immature, or that what you do and say is not right,



acknowledge that, and cease to do so.

Life is not simple, and at most times it can be difficult and overwhelming. Ignoring it does not make life more simple. It only makes it more complicated for you and others to improve life. Which makes being ignorant the same as being a spiteful, rude jerk. Don't be a jerk.

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BANTER ON THINGS

Charlie Elsewhere, Staff Writer

Once upon a time there was a boy who studied for four consecutive years to get into Northern Alabama College for the Art of Farming. His undying thought was to achieve the goals of his father, not to mention those he set for himself. He was turned down flat. He wasn't turned down because his grades weren't perfect, or because his record was that of a Brooklyn mobster, he was rejected because, as hard as they tried, no adults could take his long, wide, and abnormally shaped head, crammed with creative, ingenious, masterful life skills into a little gray box. No matter how many times they bashed it with a mallet, stomped on it with the heel of their expensive shoes and heaved their full weight against it, they could not fit that boy's head into that little gray box. Although every other boys' heads slid in with ease. The boy was heartbroken, and would never recover fully, for written on the box were the two words: "Standardized Test."

That heartbroken boy was my father, Louis Elsewhere the eighteenth. Many times have I heard him tell the tale of his trial and error to reach the halls of

image by: Maia Powloski

ACAF, sometimes in the car, with a bottle of beer. Sometimes in his old rocking chair, a cup of ale in hand. Sometimes it would be at the foot of my bed, where he would stand sipping from a warm mug of butter rum. I got more from those experiences than realizing that my father was a hopeless drunk. I also realized that there is something fundamentally wrong in the rifts of our education: standardized tests.

The name says it all, Standardized testing. That ugly little mechanical word that makes me think of someone trying to rub his hand against the spikes of a porcupine against the rhind. This is no because I think no student should have to take a test. It is because there is absolutely nothing standardized about the way we think, act and see the world. Calling our minds standardized would be stating that our minds can be programmed to think alike, and that can't be done. There is a line between what people should know, and how they express it. As much as whoever writes these tests would like to believe, all standardized tests falls into the area of how people express what they know. The way of expression that lets a college know that you are right for them, doesn't always come from filling in the correct bubble. I am not saying we should all be accepted into the country's most prestigious farming school if we don't know a Fig Newton about it, I'm saying that the way we are forced to show it is wrong. I'm not opposing standardized tests because of my family's history of our heads being crammed into little gray boxes, I'm trying to get the world to realize that sometimes what comes easier in the grading machine is not always better, especially when it puts the educations, and futures of tomorrow's population at risk from not attaining the future they wish, and deserve to have.

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